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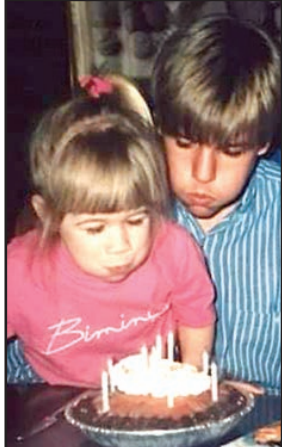
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**INSIDE This Issue**



**Precipitation extinguishes RTA flames Page 3**



**Baby sister recalls relationship with Jeff Page 4**



**Military family highlight Jeff's compassion Page 5**



Sgt Rob Nederlof from Base Maintenance leaves for home after work. En route to Wawanesa, he faced a stiff wind coming from the south, but the conditions are only preparing him for his Prairie Thousand adventure this August. *Photo Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag*

# Sergeant preparing for Prairie Thousand

**Jules Xavier**  
Shilo Stag

What's 1,000 kilometres when it comes to going for a bike ride on the prairies? For Base Maintenance IC vehicle staffer Sgt Rob Nederlof, this journey west on a 27-speed road bike is his Prairie Thousand adventure — a fundraiser for Wounded Warriors Canada. Celebrating his 50th birthday in 2021, Sgt Nederlof has 22 years in with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). Moreover, he has a passion for cycling and was happy when a section of Hwy 340 between the Base and Wawanesa, where he lives with his wife Marina and daughter Avr Kira Nederlof — also posted to CFB Shilo with G1 in a HRA position — was finally paved a few

years ago. "It was nice when it was done because I could finally ride my bike to work," he recalled. "I could finally do a decent bike ride." Riding in spring, summer and fall, Sgt Nederlof has done the Brandon/Wawanesa circuit using Hwy 2, Hwy 10, Veterans Way and Hwy 340. Then he did the Melita/Wawanesa round-trip. "I wanted to do something that would have a purpose, and came up with this trip to Lethbridge," he said, giving this adventure a moniker "The Prairie Thousand." Plans will see him depart Wawanesa Aug. 11, with wife Marina acting as support staff in a following vehicle on this cycling journey. They are expected, with conditions en route co-operating, to arrive Aug. 20. "I'm not doing this for my own health," the

Calgary-born soldier explained. "I am doing this for the mental health of others. The goal of this journey is to raise funds and awareness for Wounded Warriors Canada and the support dog program." He added, "I have a passion for cycling and recognized that could be the best way for me to help. Spreading the message there is mental health support and taking that message across the prairies is something I could do." He researched the various support groups available to CAF members and decided Wounded Warriors Canada was the best fit for his goal. That goal is to raise \$5,000 which would go to pay part of the \$15,000 cost of raising and training a PTSD support dog.





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**Submitting articles and photos for print:**

- Please submit articles as a MS Word Document.
- Include the author's full name, rank, unit and contact information.
- Include photos with your articles whenever possible, however, do not embed photos in word documents.
- Please submit photos as high resolution jpegs (if scanned 300 dpi), digital images or in hard copy format.
- With photos, include a cutline which names the individuals in the photo; what's taking place; and the name, rank, and unit of the photographer.



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# Be watchful during tick season

## Shilo Stag

On this Base and its hinterland, many of us may have lost the battle dealing with wood or "dog ticks" in early March while enjoying hikes through grassy areas with our dogs in and around the Sprucewoods trails.

Thinking our battle is finally done, keep your eyes open for a "blood sucking" tick which has invaded all areas of Manitoba — the deer or "black-legged" tick.

Both types of ticks — wood or deer — cannot fly and they hang on tall grass with their little front legs outstretched and grab on when someone or something brushes past unsuspectingly.

The wood tick is a parasite which does not transmit diseases, but the deer tick does carry a bacterium called *Borrelia burgdorferi* which can cause Lyme disease. This bacterium is spread to the host when the tick bites.

What makes this tick more of a pest? The deer or black-legged ticks are active during the spring months and well into the late fall months — remaining active until the first permanent snowfall or when air temperatures are consistently below four degrees Celsius.

What about tick removal? The majority of people are unaware they have been bitten by a tick as the bites are usually painless.

When a tick is found attached on your body, removal can become tricky, especially if you are alone and the tick is in a hard-to-reach area.

Ticks are most effectively removed with a fine pair of tweezers. The tick should be grasped as close to the skin as possible.

The feeding site should then be cleaned after the tick is removed.

Other methods such as using Vaseline, a match or soap is not recommended and can cause the insect to burrow deeper and release more saliva, which increases the chances of disease transmission.

The tick can then be placed in a small crush-proof bottle with a piece of moistened paper towel and taken to the Preventive Medicine Department — Base hospital — for identification.

Take note of where you get bitten by any tick.

If you see any unusual or extreme reaction to the bite, see your family doctor.

Occasionally some people may develop a secondary infection from a wood tick bite which requires medical attention.

If the tick does carry the bacteria, approximately 70 to 80 per cent will develop a rash three to 30 days after a bite from an infected tick.

This rash, known as Erythema migrans (EM), resembles a "bull's eye" and is not tender or itchy.

The other early symptoms of Lyme disease include: a rash other than EM, headache, fatigue, chills, fever, muscle aches, joint pain or swollen lymph nodes.

Lyme disease is successfully treated with antibiotics.

How can an outdoor enthusiast avoid picking up a tick hitchhiker from latching while out in the wilderness from spring to fall?

When walking or hiking in wooded or grassy areas take the following precautions:

- walking down the center of trails rather than the trail margins;
- wearing shoes, long pants tucked into socks and long-sleeved shirts;
- wearing light coloured clothing to make it easier to spot ticks crawling on you;
- using spray repellents containing DEET on your clothes and exposed skin;
- using a "buddy" system for checking each other; and
- finally, showering within two hours of returning from a risk area inspecting for ticks, particularly in the arm pit and groin.

Unfortunately, ticks are a part of our environment and although we may not always appreciate their subtle beauty and highly specialized way of life, care and attention will help you work and relax more comfortably in the spaces we share.

For more information on Lyme disease and deer ticks, contact the Preventive Medicine Department at 204-765-3000 ext 3159 or 4405 or online at [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/lyme-fs-eng.php](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/lyme-fs-eng.php)



## Op VECTOR

Soldiers with 1RCHA, like Gnr Brennan Boughen (left), plus medical staff from other parts of Canada, have been busy since early spring helping administer COVID vaccines in Manitoba's Indigenous communities up north.

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# Rainfall puts damper on RTA wildfire

**Lori Truscott**  
Stag Special

A recent, massive wildfire in the Shilo Range and Training Area (RTA) is estimated to have consumed an area approximately 15 kilometres by 10 kilometres, or 150 square kilometres/15,000 hectares.

That is about one third of CFB Shilo's ranges which is just more than 40,000 hectares in size. The final, actual size is still to be determined as personnel have not yet been able to get into that area to do an assessment.

The fire, which started sometime later in the day May 14, was caused by lightning and extremely dry conditions. There were isolated thunder showers in the area at the time, as well as witnesses reporting lightning in the vicinity of where the fire was first spotted.

There was no military training in that particular area on the day when the fire broke out.

Crews fighting the fire faced very challenging weather conditions of extreme dry heat and high winds complicating their efforts. Several times during the course of four days shifting winds would push the fire in a different direction.

In the evening of May 17, the fire jumped a fire break along the southern edge of the RTA along Apache Trail moving into the neighbouring Assiniboine Corridor Wildlife Area.

By late the next day May 18, firefighters finally were able to extinguish this part of the fire by conducting a "back-burn" fire control method.

Water bombers were used Monday and Tuesday to reach areas which were difficult to access by vehicle. That effort appears to have been effective as the fire did not move significantly after that in the Douglas Marsh and lightly forested area of the RTA's Area G and 8.

"Our system of fire breaks worked, said Ops and Training

Officer Maj Talon Desjardins. "The fire mitigation measures CFB Shilo has in place contributed greatly to preventing this fire from spreading into adjacent provincial parks and lands."

The "fire guards" or, more appropriately, fire-breaks are pre-planned barriers measuring about 10- to 15-metre wide which are free of combustible material like trees, grass or weeds.

Their purpose is to prevent fire from jumping from one area to another area of combustible material. CFB Shilo mitigates the potential spread of fire through a series of these fire breaks to segregate and isolate any fire into manageable areas.

Firefighters from CFB Shilo, Village of Wawanesa, plus Towns of Carberry and Glenboro as well as Manitoba Natural Resources — including the deployment of water bombers — worked on the fire.

Personnel from Range Control and Base Transport (MSE Ops) used our heavy equipment and Range firefighting equipment as well.

Nature finally came to the rescue with much needed rain and cooler weather.

"We value the contributions of our mutual aid partners," said Maj Desjardins. "With assistance from Wawanesa, Carberry, Glenboro and the province's air assets the fire was mostly contained to public land."

Ironically, this fire will likely be good for the flora of the RTA. The land affected is mixed-grass prairie with small patches of aspen trees.

According to our Base biologist Sherry Punak-Murphy, Canada's prairies were formed with the actions of fire. Fire slows the growth of trees like the aspen which are what's called a succession species.

Without fire, the prairies would eventually be overtaken by trees. The landscape of this unique area actually benefits from the occasional fire.

## Ride raises funds for PTSD service dog

From the front

"An animal like this means the difference between life and death for someone," he offered. "It may not be a military member ... it might be a first responder or dispatch operator. Anyone that experiences trauma has the potential of suffering from PTSD.

"I want to ensure for as long as I am physically and mentally capable of supporting Wounded Warriors Canada, I will do everything I can. This cycling journey is my way of contributing. Plus, I like dogs."

He started his outdoor cycling training March 8.

There's another reason why the sergeant wants to contribute to Wounded Warriors Canada.

"As a veteran of three tours of duty, I have seen too many people suffering from PTSD and other mental health issues, and rather than simply be a witness I want to contribute to the healing of these men and women," he explained.

Knowing he could be on his road bike for more than 100 kilometres per day, likely peddling six to eight hours, Sgt Nederlof is ready for a "full day."

He has put in plenty of kilometres on Hwy 340 en route to work each morning, leaving sometime after 6:30 a.m. Classic rock plays in his ear buds while he navigates the mostly flat terrain to the Base.

"When you are up that early riding you get to see wildlife ... the other morning I saw deer and a lone elk," he said. "But it's a different story when I'm going home having to push myself through the wind. In the ride to work it's about 60 minutes. It can be 90 minutes to two hours going home with that wind."

Working with his wife Marina, the two designed their route, making use of Hwy 1, then taking Hwy 3 or Redcoat

Trail into Lethbridge. That route will be more scenic than the TransCanada, with sister Grace's home the end destination.

"Because this fundraiser is just the two of us, COVID-19 restrictions will not play as restrictive a role as one might think," he said. "If provincial borders are still requiring two weeks isolation, we have designed an alternate route within Manitoba, maintaining our 1,000-plus kilometre distance."

Not a social media user, Sgt Nederlof will leave the posting and updating on Prairie Thousand Facebook and Twitter pages during the fundraising journey en route to Lethbridge to the wife.

To follow Sgt Nederlof's adventure or contribute visit [www.facebook.com/PrairieThousand/](http://www.facebook.com/PrairieThousand/) or <https://twitter.com/PrairieThousand>

His pages have a QR code which you can scan to donate via the Wounded Warriors Canada website.



Sgt Rob Nederlof battles the wind on his ride on Hwy 340 en route to Wawanesa. Photos Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag

## Obituary

### LCol Jeffrey Robert Lyttle 1975 - 2021

Lieutenant Colonel (LCol) Jeff Lyttle, Base Commander (BComd) of Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Shilo, died on 13 May 2021 at the age of 46 following a brief illness. He had served Canada for 26 years.

Born and raised in North Bay, ON Jeff joined the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in 1994, graduating from Royal Military College (RMC) with a Bachelor of Engineering in 1998 on the Dean's Honour List.

He served on numerous overseas deployments from humanitarian relief efforts in Turkey to operations in Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq. He held a variety of command and staff positions in the CAF.



He assumed command of CFB Shilo in July 2019 and had successfully led Shilo through the recent challenges of military operations during a global pandemic. He was proud to be a Gunner and was honoured to serve as Commander Home Station of the Royal Canadian Artillery.

Jeff is survived by his wife Janet and four daughters Hailey, Emma, Ava and Mackenzie; his mother Lynne and her husband JJ; father Bob and his wife Kathy. He has two sisters, Tracy and her daughter Tommia, and Jennah and her husband James and their children Jade and Jack.

He is also survived by his father and mother-in-law Jim and Faye Morden; sister-in-law Julie and her husband Brent and their children Brandon and Bradley; many other extended family and friends nationwide.

Always wearing a smile, Jeff was quick to greet friends — old, new and yet to be — with a firm handshake. Confident in who he was as a person and professional, he didn't blur the lines and allow one to influence the other. Although known as "Sir" or "LCol Lyttle" or the "BComd" at work, he was Jeff at heart.

His funeral was held from Brockie Donovan Funeral Chapel May 21. Capt Daniel Walton officiated. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the service was not an in-person public service. Extended family, friends and the community were invited to view the livestream of the funeral service for Jeff by visiting Jeff's tribute page on Brockie Donovan's website at [www.brockiedonovan.com](http://www.brockiedonovan.com)

Interment will take place at a later date in the Pembroke/Petawawa, ON area.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made to the Canadian Cancer Society. For those who wish, donations can be made to an Education Fund for his four daughters through any Bank of Montreal (BMO) by giving account number 0028 3915 269.

Janet and the family wish to thank the medical staff of Brandon Regional Health Centre for their kind and compassionate care during Jeff's brief illness.

Appreciation is extended to the staff of Brockie Donovan Funeral Home for their dedication and professionalism during this time. To the friends and family who have been so supportive, your love and compassion has deeper impact than can be expressed.



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# Big brother ate spaghetti for breakfast, blueberry pie for his birthday

**Jules Xavier**  
Shilo Stag

"My brother was the rock of the family. It won't be the same without him."

Those are sentiments from BComd LCol Jeff Lyttle's baby sister Jennah Sceviour, who shared her thoughts from Ottawa about her big brother following his May 13 death in Brandon.

Like the majority of family and friends in Ontario, because of COVID-19 pandemic protocols, she had to watch her big brother's memorial service virtually from the Brockie Donovan Chapel. She plans to say some words at his burial in the Pembroke/Petawawa area later this summer.

"Jeff was 13 years old when I was born. There is a picture of him holding me in the hospital, and he was already very much the big brother," she recalled. "I was his baby sister, and he always treated me as such. I feel like most people have stories of when their brother was mean to them, or made fun of them, but that was never Jeff."

She added, "I can't recall a single negative memory of my brother, and to this day I think you would have a hard time finding anyone that has anything bad to say about him."

Jennah married into the military after meeting her future husband then Sgt James Sceviour when he was posted to CFB North Bay. He's since remustered from his position as an Air Force Aerospace Control Operator to PAO once the officer cadet finishes with lan-



Jennah Sceviour helped her big brother Jeff blow out candles on his 16th or 17th birthday cake — blueberry pie in North Bay. The family often visited CFB Shilo's BComd during his days enrolled at RMC in Kingston.

*Photos baby sister's photo albums*

guage school. "They would tease each other about being in the Army and Air Force," she said. "Jeff joked he would accept him as an officer after he bought him a beer at the Officers' Mess. They were planning to after his arrival in Ottawa, so unfortunately, they never got the chance."

guage school.

Jennah said her cherished brother always took his roles seriously, and that included his role as a fun big brother.

"When I was little, no one could tickle me better than Jeff. Even after I grew up, he would still catch me off-guard and tickle me once in a while."

The two Lyttle children were pranksters, too, according to Jennah.

"Jeff would never play tricks on me, but he would include me in some harmless tricks on our family. I remember him teaching me square roots when I was really young. Then he asked me what the square root was in front of our family members to make them think I was a math genius."

Jennah has many fond memories from growing up with Jeff, especially when he was an older teenager.

"When Jeff got a little older, he started sleeping in later," she recalled. "I remember waiting hours for him to get up, and when he would finally come down to the kitchen he would eat spaghetti for breakfast. I thought that was so funny. He loved spaghetti."

Jennah turned six when her brother started at RMC in Kingston, Ont. The family would visit and observe him on parade.

"Thinking about it now, he was probably my first hero. I really looked up to him," she said. "I didn't know it at the time, but that would mark the beginning of us living apart. We wouldn't live in the same city again, until we were both posted to Ottawa from 2017 to 2019."

With her brother posted back to Ottawa this summer following his two-year stint as CFB Shilo BComd, she was looking forward to Uncle Jeff hanging out with his nephew Jack, plus more family gatherings.

"Jeff's path in life meant we didn't get to spend much time together. So, I look back now and cherish the time we did spend together, on special occasions. I wish we could have been closer,

but Jeff was off on his own adventure. He lived his life to the fullest."

It has been two years since Jennah last hung out with her brother in person, saying good-bye when he drove west back to CFB Shilo for a second time, this time as BComd.

"Right before his move back to Brandon in 2019, I took the opportunity to have his girls help me with my gender reveal, for my son Jack. I had the girls line up; granddaughter No. 1 Hailey, granddaughter No. 2 Emma, granddaughter No. 3 Tommia, granddaughter No. 4 Jade, granddaughter No. 5 Ava, granddaughter No. 6 Mackenzie — all girls. And, in my belly, grandson No. 1 Jack. The first and only grandson. Jeff's nephew."

Prior to giving birth to son Jack, Jennah did not see herself as a "boy mom. Now I wonder if I was given a son for a reason. He has always reminded me of his Uncle Jeff."

While he might be gone, Jennah will always cherish their memories as siblings and as aunt to his four daughters.

"I can still hear Jeff's voice, calling me Kiddo," she said. "I've taken to calling my own daughter Kiddo, and it reminds me of him when I do."

She added, "We didn't talk often enough, but I always knew Jeff would be there for me if I ever needed him. He was the rock of the family. The strong and steady, reassuring presence."

She added, "He was always so strong that I mistook it for being invincible. I wish he would have had a chance to fight the cancer because like everything else in his life, he would have given it his all. If anyone could have beaten it, Jeff would have."



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## LCol Jeff Lyttle May 6, 1975 – May 13, 2021

# Compassionate BComd put serving soldiers, families first

**Jules Xavier**  
Shilo Stag

"On behalf of your CFB Shilo defence team thank-you for your leadership. You made such an impression on the Base as a kind and approachable boss, and you'll be truly missed. Your calm approach and sense of humour left its mark on everyone you worked with over the many years in the military."

CFB Shilo COS Maj Howie Nelson delivered those words during his friend's and military colleague's memorial service at Brockie Donovan Chapel in Brandon.

He was speaking about BComd LCol Jeff Lyttle, who died May 13 after a brief illness. He was 46 and had served in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) for 26 years.

"[Jeff's] clarity of thought and support of his [military] members while taking direction from above and managing the Base was excellent," offered Maj Nelson. "He demonstrated his leadership and was not afraid to get his hands dirty."

Maj Nelson first met LCol Lyttle in 2010 when the two were with 1RCHA, serving respectively as Z Bty BC and A Bty BC. It did not take long for them to become friends, making a solid team alongside C Bty BC Maj Scott Lloyd and B Bty BC Maj Geoff Hampton.

"You were already close to Scott and Geoff, and were quick to make anyone feel welcome, and I was no exception."

Maj Nelson was especially happy when he learned his friend was returning to Manitoba to be BComd in 2019.

"I knew he would be invested in the community," he said.

During his eulogy, now LCol Lloyd spoke virtually from Halifax about his best friend and RMC roommate. The two were also each other's best man at their respective weddings.

"Jeff was known for detail of precision he put into anything he crafted," he said. "He was blessed with patience for detail that I never mastered."

LCol Lloyd pointed out his friend was also a motivator, often taking him on "crushing runs." His leadership was evident from the moment they started working together.

"He cared about his soldiers [and] families and made decisions with them in mind."

LCol Lloyd, who also served as COS at CFB Shilo after coming over from 1RCHA, said his friend would have hated the attention he's receiving following his death, "but he deserves it."

In the days following the memorial service, LCol Lloyd said people who knew him should raise a glass of red wine, a pint or Tim Horton's double-double and share a story about him with someone.

Leadership and preparedness best describe two qualities which stood out to CWO (Ret'd) James Doppler, his Command Team partner working out of Base HQ. This was evident while working during a COVID-19 pandemic.

"We had a effective relationship as a Command Team because the two of us were quick to gel," he said from his post-military office as the Base's new Information Systems Security Officer (ISSO). "We developed a good repore and were able to talk through many things. He did a lot to keep the Base operational, from keeping CANEX and daycare open, and the Base kitchen operational."

With LCol Lyttle as his Command Team partner, Doppler said the two had on many occasions to discuss all matters and they often talked about their respective personal experiences and families.

"Jeff's family meant everything to him, as he always talked about how each of them was doing and what was next for them. When we were dealing with personnel matters we often reflected about how we would react if that particular situation was our own family."

Doppler described LCol Lyttle as being compassionate and caring, with his decisions finding a balance for an individual and the organization.

"Jeff was definitely operationally focussed," he said. "He was always one bound ahead of the team which was evident in our support through COVID where he was always preparing for the next decision."

Are there a few traits which stick out from his working relationship with the BComd?

"His painstaking analysis of everything," he offered. "He seldom accepted the quick an-



There were plenty of laughs during the traditional Christmas jacket switch (above) with youngest/oldest soldiers for BComd LCol Jeff Lyttle and his BRSM CWO Jim Doppler. During his CoC ceremony held at Canoe River Memorial Park LCol Lyttle's daughter Elizabeth saluted (below) alongside her dad during the national anthem. During his first Wheat Kings game to mark Remembrance Day (bottom) he saluted at center ice along with Air Cadet daughters Hailey and Emma. Photos Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag



swer. He needed to know and would often do his own thorough research, but these traits served us extremely well as it always brought us to firm and well thought out decision."

Doppler acknowledged the work the past two years done for soldiers, their families, and the units and lodger units on the Base, won't soon be forgotten.

"He did a lot for this Base and our people, but due to COVID much of this was not visible, yet still the community is in shock and know that his passing is a great loss to all of us."

That includes the friendship Doppler forged with his Command Team partner prior to his own retirement last February.

LCol Lyttle's parents, Lynne and Bob, each pre-recorded videos to be shown during the memorial service on a day when Mother Nature drenched the chapel with much-needed rainfall on the prairies.

"I only have minutes, when I need hours to speak about our much-loved son Jeff," said dad, who told his audience this video was going to be about memories with his son.

He recalled tucking LCol Lyttle into his superhero sheets, or spending time with him on Trout Lake in North Bay, Ont.

Birthday celebrations were always special for their son, said Bob Lyttle.

"Jeff did not want cake. He al-

ways wanted blueberry pie."

Younger sister Jennah Sceviour recalled one of his teen birthdays, when she was three, about to turn four, helping him blow out the candles on his blueberry pie. The moment was photographed, and she cherishes that photograph among the many she has with her big brother.

Even Padre Capt Daniel Walton, who officiated the memorial service, shared his own stories about LCol Lyttle.

"I'm grateful for my memories," he said. "He was humble. He had that big smile. He left you with a great first impression introducing himself. When I was acting Base Chaplain he made me feel like a member of the team."

Capt Walton is especially thankful for a recent first medal presentation done by the BComd in February during an awards and honours ceremony held at Base HQ. He will think of the BComd each time he proudly wears that medal when wearing his dress uniform.

He will also miss the closing remarks from Base HQ meetings when LCol Lyttle ended with "Have a great Shilo day!"

Wife Janet fired LCol Lyttle's 'last round' with 1RCHA CO LCol David Brassard setting it up in the RTA.

### CONDOLENCES

Tim Spears: "Jeff and I served together many times throughout our careers from Subbies in 2RCHA to course mates on our BC's course. We also remember with great fondness the many times outside of work where we all got together to have a few drinks and share many laughs and good times from campfires to military functions."

LCol Sarah Heer, 2RCHA CO: "On behalf of all members of the Second Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, please accept our deepest condolences. Jeff's leadership, dedication, commitment and contributions to 2RCHA will always be remembered. Jeff earned the respect of all ranks with the genuine way he approached people with true sincerity and a compassionate leadership style. To Janet, Hailey, Emma, Ava and Mackenzie, thank-you for sharing your husband/dad with us and for allowing him to make our Regimental family a better one."

Col (Ret'd) Peter Williams, The Home Station Regimental Senate president: "On behalf of the Home Station Regimental Senate, please accept our sincere condolences on Jeff's passing. I was fortunate to work with Jeff on several occasions: first, when I was CO 1RCHA and Jeff was in B Bty. Next, when working as a contractor in Ottawa, and Jeff was in Headquarters Canadian Joint Operations Command. In both those roles, Jeff came across as a highly professional artillery officer. Finally, when Jeff became commander Home Station, I had the pleasure of working with him

to advance our Senate initiatives. Jeff was a strong supporter of the Senate and it became highly evident to me during our time together that he was totally dedicated the welfare of CFB Shilo members and their families. His passing will be a great loss, not only to the Royal Regiment, but also to CFB Shilo and the local community. Ubique!"

Capt (Ret'd) David Horne: "My deepest condolences to Janet and the girls. I will miss running into Jeff from time to time and catching up. He was a great friend at RMC and we often had the opportunity to catch up as our careers crossed over the years. He will be sorely missed."



# Former 2PPCLI CO honoured to be on Op IMPACT team

## Shilo Stag

There's a new commander for Joint Task Force IMPACT and Task Force Central (JTF-I/TF-C) at Camp Canada in Kuwait.

BGen Timothy Arsenault just assumed command, taking over from former 2PPCLI CO BGen Michael Wright, who has commanded JTF-I/TF-C since May 2020.

"It has been an honour to work the Operation IMPACT team over the past year. I want to thank deployed members for their exceptional contributions day in and day out, and for being outstanding ambassadors for the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF)," said BGen Wright.

"Canadians should be proud of the skill and dedication their military provides to enhance stability in the Middle East, especially during a time when the global pandemic and the uncertainty of the region amplifies the challenges of the mission."

"I have recently had the opportunity to meet with and learn from members deployed on Operation IMPACT who have been enabling this mission over the past several months," said BGen Arsenault.

"I look forward to continuing the work that General Wright and the units throughout the joint operations area have done to bolster the Canadian Armed Forces' contribution in the Middle East, strengthening Canada's commitment to the region."

On March 30, the Government of Canada announced the extension of Op IMPACT until March 31, 2022.

Op IMPACT is part of Canada's whole-of-government approach to the Middle East. As a result of the extension, the CAF continues to maintain its

presence in the Middle East to help set the conditions for security and stability in the region.

This includes Canada's contributions to the Global Coalition against Da'esh, NATO Mission Iraq, and bilateral capacity building in Jordan and Lebanon.



Outgoing Commander Joint Task Force IMPACT – Task Force Central, BGen Michael Wright, speaks to deployed Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) personnel during the May 21 Op IMPACT transfer of command authority ceremony at Camp Canada, Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait.

These efforts help set the conditions for the long-term success of regional partners by enabling their security forces to effectively plan and execute military operations aimed at degrading and defeating Da'esh.

JTF-I focuses on mentorship and training with an overarching goal of enhancing capabilities, capacities and competencies of partnered nations with an emphasis on commanders, leaders and instructors.

"As the Acting Commander of Canadian Joint Operations Command, I am extremely proud of the ongoing successes of Operation IMPACT and the important role our deployed CAF members have in continuing to restore stability and security to the region," said MGen Bill Seymour.

"This past year has been challenging on so many fronts and the continued effectiveness of this operation is a tribute to the professionalism and dedication of Brigadier-General Wright and his team. I am confident that Brigadier-General Arsenault will build on the mission's achievements thus far and I thank the outgoing commander for setting the framework for the continued success of Operation IMPACT."

As part of Op IMPACT, the Canadian Armed Forces Train-

ing Assistance Teams (CTATs) in Jordan (CTAT-J) and Lebanon (CTAT-L) continue to work with host nation security forces to build their capacity and strengthen their borders.

A maximum number of 850 CAF members are approved to serve on Op IMPACT. This number includes those assigned to train, advise, and assist the mission in support of the Iraqi security forces and those supporting NATO Mission Iraq.

### Quick Facts

While challenging, Op IMPACT members have effectively adapted their methods in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our priority remains the safety and security of our personnel.

Mitigation measures are in place to facilitate ongoing efforts under Op IMPACT and the continuity of our operations in a COVID-19 environment.

### In the past year:

- CTAT-L taught and mentored 651 Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) instructors and candidates in mountain and cold-weather operations.
- CTAT-L provided Combat First Aid training to 264 LAF members, including 30 who were trained as instructors.
- CTAT-J Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Mobile Training Team have now trained 120 Jordanian Armed Forces CBRN instructors since beginning in 2017.
- CTAT-J continues to work with Global Affairs Canada on border security projects including refurbishing 11 border towers and constructing soldier accommodations along Jordan's northern border.
- Op IMPACT Health Services personnel have developed COVID-19 mitigation measures and processes in order to maintain the task force's ability to conduct operations.



The Commander of Joint Task Force IMPACT – Task Force Central, BGen Michael Wright, speaks at the May 4 dedication ceremony to mark the completion of upgrades to 11 Jordanian Armed Forces observation towers along the Jordanian and Syrian border.

Photos Cpl Bryce Cooper, CAF



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# LETTER HOME FROM FRANCE

## Private runs into Scotchman watching card game

*Editor's Note: During the First World War Pte Cecil Minary served in the CEF, beginning his military training at Camp Hughes prior to being shipped to England for further training. He saw his first action soon after Canada's involvement in the Battle of Vimy Ridge in France. His great-great-niece Kendra Minary has spent the COVID pandemic going thru the original letters he wrote home from England and France prior to being KIA on Aug. 28, 1918. The Lewis gunner died on the battlefield after his crew was hit by a German artillery shell. The Stag will share Kendra's great-great-uncle's letters with our Stag readers to give you a peek at what a soldier was contemplating with pencil and paper while in the UK training or in France in a trench waiting for the next attack or counter-attack. Cecil's letters are transcribed as they were written, so this includes his spelling, grammar and punctuation. Of note, from his letters home he rarely described his clashes with Fritz, instead preferring to enquire about life on the family farm or what his family and friends were doing back in Manitba. Unlike some some soldiers who would share their war stories in their letters, Pte Minary had his own distinct writing style no matter if it's his dad, sister or a relative. He also made the job of Army censors easier by not including war details which would be blacked out. That's the reason why his letters are "somewhere in France" once he left England for the Western Front.*

829297 B. Company 52nd  
Somewhere in France  
Battalion Canadians  
June 4th 1917  
B.E.F. France

Dear Edna,

Well here I am again not quite so long this time, I received your letter of May thirteenth (sic) yesterday and well yes, I was fine and dandy and also it was a fine sunny afternoon and a no thanks I have just enough at present, with out a cold, for I think I'm making the rise of a couple of nice boils right on my jaw so I'm going to be some looking sight, but I hope you have passed that cold of on some one else long before this.

I just got one other letter besides yours yesterday from Aunt Bell Lloyd and your letters are almost a month latter (sic) date than the last mail I received so there must be ahold up (sic) somewhere. I only hope that none of it has gone astray.

Well we are still in the lines yet the same place as where I wrote you last, it will soon be a month now since we came up here, some trip eh? But the weather still keeps dry and is getting rather hot especially if a fellow is in a trench with the sun shining strait down on him and no shade to get into.

Say Edna I have improved on that water bottle stunt

for a writing desk I'll just explain my circumstances at present, I am in a home made dug out for four, along by square, two men in each end with a hole to crawl in though in one side at the centre, the walls are built of sand bags but are filled with chalk, the roof is composed of a layer of corgarated (sic) iron and a layer of sand bags to make it shrapnel proof. Well I am in sick at present sitting with my back against one side and my feet reaches the other side quite easily, underneath me is a couple of great coats a blanket and a rubber sheet or two to make things comfortable and the writing desk this time is a three gallon gasoline tin, some class eh? That fellow who was cleaning his rifle is Pte. J.W. Milligan 830484 B. Coy. P.S. the roof just nicely clears my head as I sit.

I have not seen Doherty for quite a while now, as he belongs to a different Battalion now, he gave me a snap he had of Emma just before I left the third entrenching.

"Oh say Edna" I met a cousin Reuben Orr, Leos Brother the day before yesterday. It was accidental of course for neither of us knew what Battalion the other was in, but as it is now we are in the same Brigade so will be able to see one another quite often, he is wearing kilts "Ha Ha" some Scotchman eh? It was rather funny the way we met, I was sitting at the top of an entrance to a tunnel with my feet dangling over watching a bunch

of fellows playing cards down bellow, Reuben came up from behind me and passed the remark that "that was some place to play cards" his voice sounded familiar to me and I looked around to see who it was and well Edna I guess you have an idea how things went after that. I have not seen Joe Patterson yet but Reuben said that he passed him one day in a motor lorrie, but he did not get speaking to him, but anyway he is around somewhere close, so chances of meeting him are good.

I was sorry to hear of your fathers accident I hope that he gets all right again, it seems as though France is not the only place a fellow gets a Blighty in.

Well Edna you asked me if I wanted anything special, there is nothing really anymore special than the next, but you may be sure that anything you send will be made doubly welcome, only Edna I don't think it would be much use in sending papers for Annie Prette has been sending me papers regular once a week.

I always got them in England but in four months in France I only got one paper.

Well Edna I guess this is all for this time and as I have a couple of hours spare time I think I'll beat it out and try and round up Reuben and have another chat with him.

With love and best wishes to all

From your cousin Cecil.

## Vote for your favourite youth reporter story



### Stag Special

Support the next generation of writers.

Vote for your favourite youth reporter story between now and May 31 and you can set one young person up with a grand prize package, including a \$2,500 scholarship.

Every fall, Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) newspapers invites young people, aged 13 to 18, from military families and Cadets, to enter our youth reporter competition.

This year's competition is sponsored by Adobe.

Aspiring reporters are asked to submit a story idea about something important in their life or community. CAF newspapers received more than 50 applications from CAF-affiliated youth across Canada and the world.

In late January, a selection committee of CAF newspaper editors reviewed applications to select six story ideas with the most editorial merit.

Originality and social impact are key considerations.

One month later, six finalists were contacted and given a deadline to develop their story idea into an original article. They were mentored by select Base/Wing newspaper editors, including the *Shilo Stag*.

All stories are featured in a special PLAY e-zine edition, published on [www.CAFconnection.ca](http://www.CAFconnection.ca) and in CAF newspapers across Canada.

Your vote takes them to the next level.

"The youth reporter competition gives young people affiliated with the CAF a chance to have their voices heard and to develop their writing acumen," said PSP national recreation manager and PLAY e-zine editor Ryan Cane.

"As a community, we learn a lot by listening to stories that are meaningful to the next generation, and it's great CAF newspapers offers this opportunity annually."

Now it's your turn to connect with these young writers. Read the top six stories and vote for your favourite for a chance to win a participation prize.

Voting is open until May 31 — closing at midnight EDT — only at [www.CAFconnection.ca/YouthReporter/](http://www.CAFconnection.ca/YouthReporter/)

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### Employment

**CANEX needs you:** Sales associate part-time position with 13 to 32 hr/week required. Must be available days/evenings, and weekends. Starting salary is \$12.53 per hour, progressing to \$14.77 per designated pay band. Under the direction of the department supervisor, a clerk/cashier scans customer purchases, processes transactions, and accepts payment. He/she prices, stocks shelves, counters and display areas with merchandise and keeps stock in order. He/she performs cleaning duties as required. Apply in person at CANEX admin office, or NPF Human Resources office at base HQ.

### Services

**Need your taxes done?** Fast, friendly, and personal service. Located outside the gate. For all your income tax needs contact Ingrid Wasserberg at 204-763-4357. OPEN ALL YEAR.

### Services

**Looking for a job** on the Base? Submit resumes to NPF HR office via e-mail quoting competition # to [npfhrshilo@cfmws.com](mailto:npfhrshilo@cfmws.com) OR for more detailed information on the jobs offered at CFB Shilo visit: [www.cfmws.com](http://www.cfmws.com)

### Base Chapels

**St. Barbara's Protestant Chapel**  
No Sunday service  
Padre Lazerte - ext 3381  
Padre Smallwood - ext 6836  
Padre Walton - ext 3088  
Padre Chang - ext 3089

**Our Lady of Shilo Roman Catholic Chapel**

Sunday at 10:30 a.m.  
Confessions by appointment  
Padre Nnanna - ext 3090  
Padre Shanahan - ext 3698



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